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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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06/29/2001

Thomas Edward Udd

HAR66 013

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11/03/2006

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THANH S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,440

Applicant(s)

UDD, THOMAS EDWARD

Examiner

Thanh S. Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 17 objected to because of the following: the terminologies "the improvement" should not be included in the claim language since it does not represent any structural limitations and/or any patentability considerations. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 10, 13-16, 18, 19, 22 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maggelet et al. [US 5,099,391] in view of Cannella, Jr. Et al. [US 6,144,561].

In claims 1, 6 and 13. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted for" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense.

Maggelet et al. disclose an electronic system [column 1, lines 23-51] comprising: a chassis; a plurality of printed circuit cards [figures 1 and 2] operatively installed in said chassis, each of said printed circuit cards having a faceplate [26] and a plurality of terminations each adapted for operative connection to a connector on the distal end of the conductor from a remote transceiver, said faceplate having a plurality of apertures

[38, 40] in predetermined locations relative to said terminations; an insert panel [20] carried by and overlying said faceplate, said panel having at least one apertured ports [figure 5] for the selective connection on the external side thereof to the connector on the distal end of a conductor from a remote transceiver, each of said at least one apertured ports being in alignment with one of the apertures in said faceplate so that the internal side of said ports extends in proximity to one of the terminations of said printed circuit card.

Maggelet et al. disclose the claimed invention except for: wherein the panel comprises at least one adaptor having means for electrically connecting the internal side of said adaptor to one of said terminations, the support of said at least on adaptor by said faceplate removing the weight of the connector and conductor from the remote transceiver from the printed circuit card to which connected.

Cannella, Jr. et al. teaches of panels [15's] comprising at least one adaptor having external and internal sides extends through openings of a chassis/faceplate and mate with terminations of a printed circuit board [figure 1].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the panel design of Cannella, Jr. et al. with Maggelet et al. to provide input/output signal cabling.

Regarding claims 2, 7. Cannella et al. further disclose wherein said means for electrically connecting the internal side of each of said adaptors to said card is a jumper cable [column 5, lines 15-22].

Regarding claims 3, 8. Cannella et al. further disclose wherein said means for electrically connecting the internal side of each of said adaptors to said card is a connector carried by said card [column 5, lines 15-22].

Regarding claims 4, 5, 9-10, 15-16 and 26-27. Cannella et al. further disclose wherein the external side of each of said adaptors extends downwardly to reduce gravity induced stress in the conductor attached thereto [figure 1].

Regarding claims 18, 19 and 22. The method steps are necessitated by the apparatus limitations.

Claim 12 and 29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannella et al. [US 6,144,561] in view of Begley et al. [US 6,558,201].

Regarding claim 12, Cannella et al. disclose a system [figure 1] having a circuit card [18] with a plurality of terminations adapted for selective operative connection to a remote peripheral component, and a faceplate/chassis [12] with a plurality of apertures in predetermined locations relative to said terminations, the improvement wherein said operative connection is by way of a through-connector carried by an insert panel [15's] overlying and carried by said faceplate, to thereby remove the weight of the conductor of any attached remote peripheral component from the termination to which operatively connected.

Cannella et al. disclose the claimed invention except for wherein the external side of said through-connector is downwardly angled to reduce the stress on any attached conductor.

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Begley et al. disclose an apparatus comprising a plurality of connector wherein the external of the connector(s) is downwardly angled [figure 1, connectors 185, 190, 195].

Since Cannella et al. and Begley et al. are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Begley et al. would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Cannella et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the connector design of Begley et al. with Cannella et al. for the purpose of stress reduction.

Regarding claim 29, the method steps are necessitated by the apparatus structure.

Claim 17, 20-21 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maggelet et al. [US 5,099,391].

Maggelet et al. disclose a system [column 1, lines 23-51] having a circuit card with a plurality of terminations adapted for selective attachment to a remote peripheral component, and a faceplate [26] with a plurality of apertures [38, 40] in predetermined locations relative to said terminations, the improvement comprising an insert panel [20] overlying said faceplate, said insert panel having at least one aperture [figure 5] in a predetermined location relative to the apertures in said faceplate, wherein the faceplate covers at least one of said plurality of terminations to thereby selectively control access of a remote peripheral to said terminations [selectively control access by means of

selectively allowing external data and/or power to connected to the interior components].

Regarding claims 20-21 and 28. The method steps are inherent to the apparatus limitations.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh S. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-2109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a


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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tsp


10/29/06.
Tuan Dinh.